

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 00445 240524Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
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R 231402Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7131
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS KUWAIT 0445

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, KU, US
SUBJECT: KUWAITI REACTIONS TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S FIRST DAYS IN OFFICE

1. OFFICIAL COMMENT. THE KUWAITI MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
CEBINET AFFAIRS ARE THE ONLY GOK OFFICIALS REPORTED IN THE KUWAITI
PRESS AS SPEAKING OUT ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S FIRST DAYS IN OFFICE.
FONMIN SABAH AL-AHMAD REPORTEDLY TOLD THE PRESS (AL WATAN,
JANUARY 23) THAT HE HOPES PRES. CARTER'S ADMINISTRATION
"WILL BE LABLED WITH PEACE BASED ON JUSTICE. I DON'T BELIEVE
THAT THERE WILL BE A BOTICEABLE CHANGE IN U.S. POLITICAL
ADMINISTRATION". FONMIN WENT ON TO ASSERT THAT THE U.S.
REALIZES THAT A MIDDLE EAST SOLUTION IS IN ITS OWN INTEREST
AND THAT A CONTINUATION OF THE STATUS QUO IS NOT IN U.S.
INTERST. HE CONCLUDED WITH HOPE THAT A REGIONAL SETTLEMENT
WILL INCLUDE, FOR THE STATE OF AREA, "FRONTIERS PRESERVED"
AND "SECURITY UNSURED" WITH "THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE GIVEN
THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND THE RETURN OF THEIR HOMELAND".
THE PRVIOUS DAL (AL ANBA, JAN 22) MINISTER FOR CABINET AFFAIRS
HUSSEIN, REPORTEDLY TOLD THE PRESS THAT KUWAITIS "HOPE PRES.
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CARTER WILL DEAL WITH OUR PROBLEMS JUSTLY... WE WISH THAT
PRES CARTER WILL BE MORE UNDERSTANDING OF THE ARAB PROBLEM..."
HUSSEIN ALSO SPOKE OF U.S. INTERESTS IN THE SAME VEIN AS THE
FONMIN, AND CALLED ON THE NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION TO "VIEW THE
PALESTINIAN ISSUE OBJECTIVELY".

2. MEDIA COMMENT: CARTER INAUGURATION AND SPECIAL CARTER

REMARKS TO FOREIGNERS RECEIVED AMPLY COVERAGE IN KUWAIT MEDIA. EXTENSIVE EDITORIAL COMMENTARY CARRIED MIXED DOUBTS, HOPES AND FEARS OF WRITERS WHO WONDERED WHETHER CARTER COULD RECOGNIZE "REAL U.S. INTERESTS" IN THE MIDDLE EAST (AL WATAN, JAN 21 AND AL ANBA, JAN. 20) AND, EVEN IF SO, NOTED THAT A "RADICAL DEPARTURE FROM THE PAST SIMPLY IS NOT POSSIBLE" (KUWAIT TIMES, JAN. 20). EDITORIALIST OF AL RAI AL AM, HOWEVER, ASSERTED JANUARY 21 THAT "CARTER'S PERSONAL QUALITIES OF SUBTLETY, PATIENCE AND FARSIGHTEDNESS...WILL BE AN ASSET IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS..." AND WISHED CARTER WELL. SUTHERLAND

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